

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is provided an authentication method capable of promptly identifying a real holder of securities and providing holders with useful information.

- 5 A holder identifying unit compares customer information with transaction information so that a real holder of securities can be identified after a related transaction. The associated information is stored in a storage unit via a holder information registering unit. A retrieval unit
- 10 acquires holder information concerning a securities issuance company that owns an information processing apparatus in response to a request for downloading holder information from the storage unit. An information sending unit refers to the holder information stored in the
- 15 storage unit, and sends related items of holder information to the holder.